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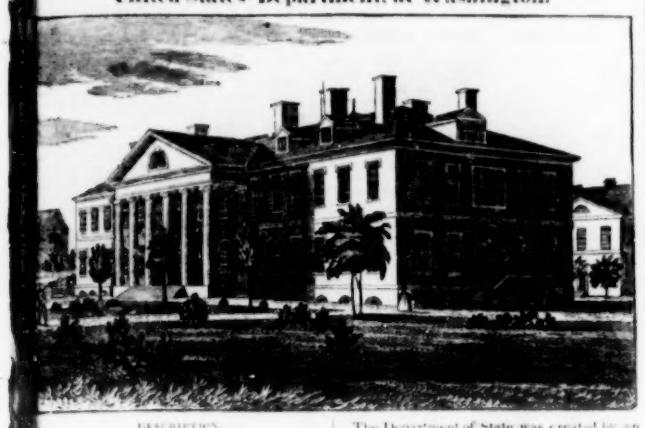

DESCRIPTION.

The erection of this building, designated the Department of State, was commenced in the year 1816, and completed in 1818. The whole cost is estimated at $69,535. It is remarkably neat in appearance, and is justly considered one of the handsomest public edifices in Washington. The building is devoted, exclusively, to the use of the Secretary of State, for the transaction of the business connected with his office, which is, as may readily be supposed, of an extensive and complicated character, calling for the services of a large number of clerks, book-keepers, &c. It was first occupied by the Hon. Richard Rush, of Pennsylvania, acting Secretary of State, afterwards by Alexander Hamilton, Esq. and subsequently by John Quincy Adams, appointed by President Monroe; Henry Clay, by President Adams; and Martin Van Buren, by President Jackson. It is now occupied by Mr. Livingston, also appointed by President Jackson.

For the more speedy transaction of public affairs, and the better accommodation of the officers employed by the Secretary of State, the building is divided into various rooms, halls, &c. each of which is devoted to some special object, and occupied by those whose business requires them to promote it. The multiplicity of affairs that come under the jurisdiction of the Secretary render order and regularity indispensably necessary.

The Department of State was created by an act of Congress, of the 15th of September, 1789, by a previous act of the 27th of July, 1789, it was denominated the Department of Foreign Affairs; and it embraces, what in some other governments, are styled the Department of Foreign Affairs, and Home Department.

The Secretary of State conducts all treaties between the United States and Foreign Powers, and correspondes, officially, with the Public Ministers of the United States, at Foreign Courts, and with the Ministers of Foreign Powers, resident in the United States. He is entrusted with the publication and distribution of all treaties with Foreign Powers, and Indian Tribes; preserves the originals of all laws and treaties, and of the public correspondence growing out of the intercourse between the United States and Foreign nations; is required to procure and preserve copies of the Statues of the several states, grants passports to American citizens, visiting foreign countries; preserves the evidence of copy-rights, and has control of the office which issues patents for useful inventions. He has charge of the Seal of the United States, but can not affix it to any instrument or act, without the special authority of the President.

The Secretary of State receives a yearly salary of $6,000.

Written for the Casket.

THE MARRIAGE FESTIVAL.

A SKETCH.

Where is not death, save as night follows day?
Death treads in pleasure's footsteps round the world.
Young

[illegible] gladness in the Source hall, and [illegible]'s strumming music!
And boundless hearts in unison with music! joyful sound!
And fair and fairy forms, as seen to move all lightly in the dance!
All seen and spoiling eyes to seem their brightest and most glorious!
And rosy lips [illegible] marking o'er the cheek of beauty, for all seemed [illegible] in wedding mood, to-day [illegible] as [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Where every bosom grief's dolorous gloom seem'd banished for a while!
Each heart beat high and happily in that assembled throng
And gaily flew the moments by with dance, and wine, and song!
And each might each young bosom share the exhaust and [illegible]
For ever
Which would it to recite unbounded wits that gay festivity
Will make the fish and flowers [illegible] [illegible] partly around
And commune and mingle hearts in one wild joy to bound
And embrace the moments ever of that eventful day
Which [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] to fate in woe
Those Lord's holy vow would first mean a fearful jest
[illegible] wicked hands to [illegible] their hearts still closer
They who had loved each other long with more than earthly love—
[illegible] and holy flame that seem'd caught from that fire
And many an aged man was [illegible] and many a fair
And [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
They were conveyed, to please [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
As response to the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
And now those stood around the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

These delights, if thou canst give,
Mirth, with thee I mean to live.

PARODY ON "OH NO, WE NEVER MENTION HER."
From the Comic Offering.

Oh no, I never mention it,
I never said a word
But lent my friend my five pound note,
Of which—I've never heard!
He said he merely borrowed it
To pay another debt—
And since I've never *mentioned* it,
He thinks that *I forget!*

When'er we ride, I pays the 'pike;
I treat every treat.
He rides my cob—he drives my cab—
But *cuts* me when we meet!
My new umbrell' I lent him, too,
One night 'twas very wet,
Though *he* forgets it ne'er came back.
Ah me—*I* don't forget!

To Sally Sims, my own true love,
Few vants can I pay
But think how *kind* my friend behaves.
He calls on her each day!
He hum I've sent such pearls and rings,
With fruit and flowers a lot
The *fruit* and *flowers* came safe to hand,
The rest—my friend forgot!

Sometimes I treats Miss to the play,
And, what I can't abide,
In when *I* just sat down by her
My friend's at *t'other side!*
Such whispering and such quizzing, too,
They keeps, to make me fret,—
I know 'tis only "make believe,"
But pain—I can't forget.

"A friend in need's a friend indeed."
Thus I have found quite true.
For one is such a needy friend,
He sticks to me like glue!
We're like, they say—for oft have I
Been taken for—his clothes.
He makes me *free* with me and mine.
Himself he quite—forgets!

MY HORSE STANDS READY.

My horse stands ready on the way,
My heart a-yet is free—
Now tell me, lady, shall I stay,
Or shall I go with thee.

Too often have I been beguiled
To trust a woman's smile
E'er she a jack-o'-lantern wild,
Hath led me many a mile.

My foot is in the stirrup, dear,
My hand upon the mane
Now answer quickly, while I'm here—
I wait not come again.

She blushed, and faltered "will you stay"
It was enough for me
My horse no longer scanned the way—
My heart no more was free.

Epigram. The following epigram was written by a London *Turn* on seeing in a window in the city a handbill headed "John Russell, clothes renovator!"—

"Two Russells fained and each a John,
Both surgeons from patronage,
One renovates your clothes—and one
The British Constitution."

ADMIRAL BENBOW'S WIFE.—When Admiral Benbow added so gloriously to the laurels so often reaped in the British seas, and defeated the French fleet, he was under the necessity of going into a boat to shift his flag from his own ship to another. In his passage a shot went through the boat's sails, when the Admiral, taking off his wig, wiped the bullet hole with it, and by that means saved the boat from sinking, until he reached the ship in which he intended to hoist his flag. Thus, by a presence of mind so natural to the worthy admiral, was he himself saved, and also enabled to continue the engagement, which ended so gloriously to the British nation.

Epitaph in Llanfair church yard, North Wales

Life is a bubble,
As we plainly see,
God is the bubbler,
We are the we.
A subtle he conducereth with us to play,
Then slily steals us one by one away.

When George II. was once at a masquerade, he observed Miss Chudleigh in a habit which very closely bordered upon the naked. "My dear lady," said the good natured monarch, "suffer me to put my hand upon that soft bosom." "Sire," said she, "give me your hand, and I will put it on a much softer place." She took his right hand and put it upon his own forehead.

Every man to his trade. "Don't you shut up your shop to-day, to mourn for the fate of the Reform Bill?" said a tradesman in Sheffield, the other day, to his neighbour. "No," replied the latter, "I can't afford it." "Why you are not a boroughmonger, are you?"—"Oh no, I'm a bacconist.

It is related of a remarkable indolent person, that, although suffering under a severe fit of the ague, he was *too lazy to shake!* But we have the reverse of the story. A few days since, in our village, says the Geneva, N. Y. Gazette, an interesting boy 3 years old, labouring under this disagreeable malady, was tenderly asked by his mother, "what is the matter my son?" to which the child innocently replied, in a languishing tone, "oh I don't know—*I go so fast!*"

Shoemaking by Machinery. It is not generally known, but we understand it to be an absolute fact, that SHOES are manufactured in Dedtford, England, by Machinery and that the government refuses to permit its being further used on account of its throwing the great body of persons belonging to that business out of employment. This makes FORTY kinds of business in which machinery has been introduced. England finds it necessary to check machinery.

Forfarshire Honesty. An officer of the peace was one day brought before the late Provost Webster, of Forfar, and convicted of having appropriated to his own use a sum of money which in the discharge of his official duty he had recovered for behoof of a creditor. The worthy magistrate, in the course of administering a reproof to the delinquent, remarked "that it was singular that he could not get honest men to transact the business of the court," to which the nonest absolved offender made this brief but characteristic reply, "There's naething singular about it, for, by —, sir, nae honest man wad do't."

The Weekly Messenger, printed at Russellville, Kentucky, under its "*theatrical*" head, says:

"For a few days our village has been enlivened by the performances of Mr. Baldwin's *Dramatical* Corpse."

Enlivened by a *corpse!*

"My lord, stand back, and let the *coffin* pass."

Doctor N——, having printed two heavy volumes, containing the "Natural History of Worcestershire," Dr. Barton remarked to him, that his publication was, in several particulars, extremely erroneous, and when N—— defended his assertions, replied, "Pray, Doctor, are you not a Justice of the Peace?" "I am, sir," was the reply. "Why then, sir," added Barton, "I advise you to send your work to the same place you send your vagrants, that is, to the House of Correction.

A miser being called upon by an acquaintance, whom he did not wish to entertain, told the servant to answer, that nobody was within: according to which the girl said that *her* master was out, and "there was not a soul in besides herself." To which the visitor, who saw Penurious peeping through the window curtains, said, loud enough to be heard by him, "Well, my dear, I know no cause to disbelieve you; for, except yourself, I see nobody but your master, and he has no soul."

Cicero was of low birth and Metellus was the son of a licentious woman. Metellus said to Cicero, "*Dare* you tell your father's name"—Cicero replied, "*Can* your mother tell yours?"

A gentleman having married a lady of the name of Lamb, who had very little beauty, but a very great fortune, was told by an acquaintance that he would *not* have taken the *Lamb*, had it not been for the *fleece*.

When Addison became secretary of state, his old school mistress, being far advanced in years, grew very deaf. A friend who one day called upon her, told her that her little favourite was now a great man, and a great writer. "Aye, (said she) I always said Joey was born to be a great man; he was a mighty clever boy, and a deal of pains I took with him: do you know, that before he left me he read very near as well as I did, but pray what has he written?"—"Why, The Spectators."—"The Sextators."—"Speak a little louder, pray."—"The eight volumes of the Spectators."—"Dear me! dear me! eight volumes about potatoes! what could he find to say! But I always said Joey was a clever boy."

LIFE IN PHILADELPHIA.

AN UNCONNECTED TALE.

I afterwards met with Cæsar, a mercurial sharp boy; he was in company with Florinda, a Negress, both also arrayed in all the fashionable finery of the *head ton*.

Says Cæsar, "How you like de new fashion shirt, Miss Florinda?"—Florinda, with an air which would have graced the highest circles, replied, "I tink dey mighty elegum—I see you on New-year-day, when you carry de colour in de Obolition Sicty—you look jut like *Pluto, de God of war!*"

This mimic scene could only be equalled by an occurrence which took place at the Coloseum yesterday, where, standing by a fat frowsy woman who was gazing at the panoramic view of London, covered with a huge bonnet and ribbands of all colours, named and unnamed by Newton, and sweating under a load of ebon curls, I heard her say to her daughter, who had a face resembling a bull dog, "Clara, my dear, do you see your father's properties?" "Oh! yes," replied Clara," and Fleet Ditch, and Mutton Hill, and Sal Saunders sifting dust." "Do, Bobby, my darling," growled the mother, "run down and call the carriage, for these here people smells so strong of musk and lavender, that I am faint for want of a drop of something. It is always the case with me, when I gets amongst these vulgur classes." I say, Sir, that neither Cæsar, Florinda, nor Mrs. Muck the dustman's wife, were in their proper sphere. The former were useful beings on the plantations—the latter on the dust-hill.

To be continued.

SALE OF A WIFE.—A Highland girl, who had lately been in service in Strathaven, became enamoured of a shoemaker, not five miles from Lanark, Scotland, and the affection being reciprocal, they were married. The affections of his spouse, however, were shortly afterwards, on the appearance of an old lover, transferred from the shoemaker to his spouse's quondam Adonis; and, as the shoemaker could not hope to regain his fair rib, it was agreed by the parties, *nemine contradicente*, that the lover should purchase the wife from the husband for £2, and that the spouse and he should grant letters of mutual separation. The bargain being completed, the money was paid down, the lovers rushed into each others arms. Crispin departed for the royal burgh of Lanark, chuckling over the rhino, and glad of being quit of his rib.

WINDOW MIRRORS.—To almost every house in Rotterdam, and sometimes to every window of a house, on the first floor, there is fixed a single or double looking glass or reflector, by means of which a person in the room, sitting before the window, can see by reflection the whole length of the street, the passengers, the trees, the canal, and the shipping. When two of these reflectors are placed at right angles, and the right angle pointed towards the window, a person within, directing his eye to that angle, will see the whole street, both to the right and to the left.

SEEING A MAN—DRUNK.—Tom Hobbs once reported that he saw certain a clergyman drunk. The reverend doctor, hearing of this, was not a little provoked at the slander, and forthwith prepared to Tom to give him a severe reprimand.

How is it, Tom, said the divine, that I hear such accounts of you?

Accounts! quoth Tom, egad! I keep no accounts.

I mean, said the former, the arrant stories you have put in circulation respecting my character.

Ah, replied Tom, I now understand you—but what stories do you mean; I tell so many, that, as I said before, I keep no account of them.

Why, sirrah, I hear you have reported that you saw me drunk.

Well, I did say so—and I say so again—I saw you drunk.

You did see me in that state—when and where! answer me quickly, or you shall suffer the penalties of the law.

Why, then, you remember passing me the other day, about eleven in the morning, and just opposite the tavern here?

Yes—I do recollect it—but what then?

Why, then, your reverence, I was pretty essentially drunk, and so I saw you—drunk.—*Constellation.*

EXTRAORDINARY.—A French gentleman in Kilkenny, Ireland, says a recent *Journal* of that town, has invented a machine which will, if it realize the inventor's expectations, supersede the use of rail-roads. A short time past he formed a model, four feet in length, which appeared so perfect in its construction that he was encouraged to proceed: and after making some improvements, he now has tradesmen employed in forming a machine of serviceable materials calculated for the application of horse power.—With this machine he expects to have put in motion on any good common road, either by horse or steam power, an equal weight, and at as equal speed, with the burdens now carried on rail-roads. By an ingenious contrivance, a rail, on which the wheels describe their course, is kept continually preceding before them!

A young fellow having bought a water proof hat, and wishing to play off a joke, washed his head, and, whilst it was streaming with water, ran to the batter and complained of being deceived. "Ah," said the batter, "I see how it is, sir—you came out in the rain."

Ledelius tells of a woman who was very much incommoded by crickets, and tried, but in vain, every method to banish them from her house. She at last accidentally succeeded; for having one day invited several guests to her house, where there was a wedding, in order to increase the festivity of the entertainment, she procured drums and trumpets to entertain them. The noise of these was so much greater than what the little animals were used to, that they instantly forsook their situation, and were never heard in that mansion more.

MR. WIRT'S VIEWS OF TEMPERANCE.

Mr. Wirt being prevented by sickness from addressing the Baltimore Temperance Society at their late annual meeting, sent a letter to the chairman, to be read to the meeting, in which he thus beautifully expresses his wishes for the success of temperance societies.

If some fatal plague, of a contagious character, were imported into our country, and had commenced its ravages in our cities, we should see the most prompt and vigorous measures at once adopted to repress and extinguish it; but what are the most fearful plagues that ever carried death and havoc in their train through the eastern countries, compared with this? They are only occasional; this is perennial. They are confined by climates or places; this invades in all climates, and all times and places. They kill the body at once; this consumes both body and soul by a lingering and dreadful death, involving the dearest connexions in the vortex of ruin. What parent, however exemplary himself, can ever feel that his son is safe while this living fountain of poison is within his reach? God grant that it may soon become a fountain sealed, in our country at least. What a relief, what a delightful relief would it be to turn from the awful and horrid past, to the pure, peaceful, and happy future! to see the spring of life and feeling and intelligence renewed on every hand: health, industry, and prosperity glowing around us: the altars of domestic peace and love rekindled in every family: and the religion of the Saviour presented with a fair field for its celestial action.

The progress already made in our temperance societies in advancing this golden age, prove them to be of a Divine origin. May the Almighty crown his own work with full and speedy success.

Captain TREVETT commanded the only artillery company in the engagement at Bunker Hill, and after he was seventy years of age, possessing great bodily vigor, he would dance about, with a fine, high color, like a young man. "Talk the would say of the battle of Bunker Hill; it was no such thing; the battle was fought on Breed's Hill. I was there, commanding the only artillery company on the ground; we had a *warm* day. On the morning, as I was leaving my home, my mother called me to her: 'Sam,' said she, 'you are to-day going to fight the battles of your country; conduct yourself as becomes a man fighting for his freedom; remember every bullet that will be fired will have its commission from Heaven, and fear nothing, for your fate is in the hand of God!' As I went to the scene of action, which was entirely new to me, I discovered a large tree right before, and for a while I kept it so. My mother's lecture, however, flashed upon my mind, and from that moment I thought no more of the tree, nor of danger, during the whole day."

DELICATE ATTENTIONS.—In the 10th century, to eat out of the same plate and drink out of the same cup was considered a mark of gallantry, and the best possible understanding between a lady and a gentleman.

SCHOOL OF FLORA.

From the Medical Flora of the United States.
BY PROFESSOR RAFINESQUE.

LOBELIA INFLATA.

Names. Common Lobelia. *Fr.* Lobelie enflee. *Vulgar.* Indian Tobacco, Wild Tobacco, Emetic Weed, Puke Weed, Asthma Weed.

Sp. Lobelia inflata. L. Branching and hairy, leaves sessile, ovate, denticulate, flowers in slender racemes, axillary to oblong bracts, capsules swelled.

DESCRIPTION. Biennial plant, one or two feet high, stem milky, erect, ramose, flexuose, subangular, hirsute; leaves alternate, oval or oblong, acute, sessile, or semi-amplexicaule, unequally serrate or toothed, pubescent, racemes of flowers terminal, erect *loose*; flowers remote, each nearly sessile and axillary to a bract, somewhat similar to the leaves, but smaller, the upper ones smallest; lower flowers pedunculated, ovary swelled, oval globose; calyx with five unequal subulate divisions; corolla small blue. Capsule ovate-globose, calyx swelled, striated, two-celled, full of very minute seeds.

HISTORY. The genus Lobelia is dedicated to *Lobel* an old botanist. It contains a great variety of species, fifteen of which grow in the United States; many are handsome ornamental plants. This species is not such, but has very important qualities. It grows all over the United States in fields and woods, blossoming from July to November; the flowers are very small, but singular; when broken, a milky acrid juice is emitted; the root is fibrous, yellowish white, acrid and nauseous: it is biennial, throwing out the first year only a few radical roundish leaves. When horses and cattle eat it, they are salivated, producing what is commonly called the *Slavers*, which debilitates them, and for which cabbage leaves are said to be a remedy. I was informed that some horses eat it on purpose to medicate themselves; several *Euphorbias* produce the same effect. It produces many varieties, such as—1. *Simplex*. 2. *Elatior*. 3. *Alboflora*. 4. *Dasyphyllos*, &c.

PROPERTIES. One of the most powerful and efficacious emetic, narcotic, expectorant, antispasmodic, sudorific, diuretic anti-asthmatic, and sialagogue. It contains an acrid principle, cauthanine, and extractive, according to Dr. Bigelow. In its effects it acts very much like tobacco, but the action is more speedy, diffusible, and short; besides, affecting even those who are accustomed to tobacco. The herbalist, Samuel Thompson, claims in his guide of health to have discovered the properties of this plant towards 1780; but the Indians knew some of them; it was one of their puke weeds, used by them to clear the stomach and head in their great councils.—Its medical properties have since been confirmed and elucidated by Doctors Cutler, Dorsey, Thacher, Bigelow, Barton, Bradstreet, Randall, Eberle, &c. It is now extensively used, although many physicians consider it as a deleterious narcotic, uncertain and dangerous in practice: while Thompson denies it, and considers it as harmless, depending almost altogether upon it in his new and singular practice of medicine, borrowed chiefly from the steaming and puking practice of the Indian tribes. The whole plant is used, but the most powerful part are the seeds, as in *Hyoscyamus*. The medical effects are speedy and very powerful, but various, according to the preparations, doses, and temperaments. In large doses, it is a deadly narcotic, like tobacco and henbane, producing alarming symptoms, continual vomiting, trembling, cold sweat, and even death. It appears to act upon the brain rather than the stomach, as usual with narcotics, and is therefore dangerous in practice, unless prescribed with great care and caution. In strong doses it produces great relaxation, giddiness, headache, debility, and perspiration; in moderate doses it causes sickness in the stomach and vomiting, a prickly sensation through the whole system, acting therefore on the nervous system, and being a very diffusible stimulant of it.

It has been recommended in some shape or other for almost every disease; but those for which it is most efficient are spasmodic asthma, bronchial cough, tetanus or lock-jaw, and strangulated hernia. In asthma particularly, it appears to be almost a specific, although it has failed in some cases when the disease was not spasmodic; it has lately been introduced in Europe as a remedy for this complaint, and with decided advantage. It must be used in that case until it produces nausea and vomiting, while for the other diseases, it is better to give small doses, frequently repeated; it avails thus for pneumonia and cough caused by accumulated mucus in the bronchiæ. Its effects in croup, rheumatism, dyspepsia, hooping-cough, catarrh, &c. are more doubtful: although in catarrh it appears to act like squill and antimony. Schœpf mentions it only as astringent and useful in ophthalmia, but probably by mistake. It has no cathartic effect, as once asserted. Thatcher has given a case of hydrophobia cured by it in the last stage: this deserves attention, as the plant, by its effects on the mouth and system, appears calculated to avail in this fatal disease; but the subject has not yet been properly pursued. The practice of Thompson to use it in every thing, fevers, consumption, measles, murder, &c. is preposterous. It is not even a proper emetic for common use, as we have so many much milder. In consumption it is harmful, because it prostrates the patient without relieving the symptoms. It is, however, the base of many quack medicines for consumption, which are violent and dangerous; they are erroneously called Indian specifics, the Indians having no specific for the disease, but only palliatives.

This plant loses its active properties by boiling or even scalding. It must be used in substance or tincture; the seeds and young leaves are strongest; the whole plant is commonly collected in the fall when in seed, and pulverised. One single grain is sometimes sufficient to produce emesis, while a moderate dose is said to be about ten grains of the powder. A tea spoon full of the tincture is the usual dose; when made with the seeds it is more efficient, and Mr. Cannon has told me that a single dose has cured the lockjaw, by relaxing instantly the jaws and the whole system; it must be poured by the sides of the mouth. One pound of the plant is directed to be infused in a gallon of diluted alcohol. The aqueous cold infusion is equally good. I consider the best and most available use of this plant to be in all nervous diseases, fits, convulsions, spasms, asthma, tetanus, St. Vitus' dance, and perhaps hydrophobia. I venture to recommend its trial in all these disorders, but not to depend upon it in any other.

L. syphilitica has large blue flowers in a foliose spike, calyx with reflexed sinuuses and oblong leaves; common in woods and roads. It has been analyzed in France, and found to contain a new substance similar to butter, sugar, mucilage, and malates, besides traces of amarine, silex, iron, muriate and phosphate of lime, lignin, &c. It is a lactescent, acrid, and nauseous plant also, which has been deemed long ago to be diuretic, repellent, cathartic, emetic, and anti-syphilitic; but its properties are rather similar to *L. inflata*, although less active; it is chiefly sudorific and diuretic, and its properties are not so easily destroyed by heat, since it is used in decoction and extract. The root has been chiefly used instead of the plant; dose, five to twenty grains of the extract in dropsy. The northern Indians used it for the cure of syphilis, in conjunction with *Prunus* and *Podophyllum*, and its strong decoction, washing also the ulcers with it, and sprinkling them with the powder of *Comothis*; but it has failed in the hands of physicians, and only availed in some cases of gonorrhœa, acting then as a diuretic. Henry recommends to unite to it *Geranium maculatum* and willow bark as astringents. It disagrees with the stomach, and often causes griping, purging, and vomiting.

L. cardinalis has large scarlet flowers in a long naked raceme, leaves oval lanceolate, acuminate at both ends. Found near streams and marshes. The taste is similar to *L. inflata*.—The root has chiefly been employed in decoction by the Cherokee Indians in syphilis, and against worms. It is said to be equivalent to *Spigelia* or pink root. These properties deserve further inquiry, as the whole genus *Lobelia* appears to be more or less medical with us; the other species have not yet been tried: one species (perhaps *L. claytoniana*) is said to be used as a mild diuretic in Carolina.

Prospectus of a New Volume.

ATKINSON'S CASKET,

OR GEMS OF

Literature, Wit, and Sentiment.

A MONTHLY PERIODICAL.

Each number containing six royal octavo pages of letter press, embellished with at least one copperplate and several wood engravings, and one or more pieces of music.—The work forms at the end of the year a volume of about 600 pages, to which an elegant engraved title page and a general index are added.

THE number of volumes of the CASKET which have already been published, and the fastidiousness and punctuality of the publisher in fulfilling contracts, with regard to the aspect of their contents, are sufficient, with those at all acquainted with the work, to ensure its true character.

The unparalleled success previously bestowed on the CASKET has enabled the publisher to make considerable improvements in the work. By experimentally superseding what is changed for the better, and the addition of such embellishments as become dead the various new properties will not be expended in vain, but will be found to add to the value, as well as the beauty of the engravings, and the value of the contents by any other periodical, and for any sum it is to be the cheapest publication of the kind in the country.

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